

## **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) A method of forming a slotted wound core having adjacent radial slots separated by an angle  $\alpha$ , said method including the steps of:

- (a) Feeding a length of material through a punch arrangement and attaching an end of the material to a mandrel;
- (b) Calculating a length BC of the material between a first point B and a second point C, where point B is the point of intercept between a punch center of the punch arrangement and the material and the second point C is the point of contact between material wound on the mandrel and a roll radius measuring means;
- (c) Determining a next aperture punch point position A on the material, said position A being determined by the steps of:
  - I. Determining the angle  $\theta$  about a center point of the mandrel between a radial extending to point C and a radial forming a center line of a slot which the aperture at point A will extend when laid against a circumference of the roll of material on the mandrel;
  - II. Determining a length AC of material between a first point A and the second point C, where AC is determined by the equation:

$$AC = \theta \left( \frac{\theta \times t}{4\pi} + r \right)$$

Where  $r$  is the radius of the roll measured at C by the roll radius measuring means and  $t$  is the thickness of the material to be punched;

III. Calculating a length of material AB between the first point A and a third point B, where AB is determined by the equation:

$$AB = AC - BC$$

- (d) Calculating a mandrel rotation index angle  $\gamma$  required to achieve a feed length AB;
- (e) Rotating the mandrel by index angle  $\gamma$ ;
- (f) Punching an aperture in the material using the punch arrangement; and
- (g) Repeating steps (b) to (f) until a desired core radius is achieved.

27. (Original) A method of forming a slotted wound core according to claim 26 wherein the mandrel rotation index angle  $\gamma$  is calculated using the equation:

$$\gamma = \frac{-r + \sqrt{r^2 + \frac{t \times AB}{\pi}}}{\frac{t}{2\pi}}$$

28. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 27 further including an initial pre-feed operation during which the material is fed until it contacts the mandrel and is then fed into a mandrel fixing means.

29. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 26 wherein after one complete rotation of the mandrel, a permanent fixing means is applied to attach a first

layer of material on the mandrel to a second layer so as to thereby prevent an inside diameter of the roll of material from unwinding when it is removed from the mandrel.

30. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 26 wherein when a desired outside diameter of the roll of material on the mandrel is achieved, a cutting means cuts the material at a desired point and an attaching means permanently affixes the cut end of the material to the roll so as to prevent the roll unwinding.

31. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 26 further including the step of automatically ejecting the completed roll.

32. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 26 further including the step of cutting off a first unpunched portion of the length of material on the roll so that the slots formed by the apertures in the material extend from the circumference of the roll to the center.

33. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 26 further including the step fixing the ends of the roll to prevent inadvertent unwinding of the roll.

34. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 26 wherein between step (a) and step (b), the initial feeding process is driven and halted using the first roll means rather than by indexing the mandrel and apertures are punched in the material at appropriate locations, resuming the feed process thereafter until the material reaches the location of a mandrel fixing means.

35-36. (Canceled)